

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Joan Trusner and I am writing to you concerning your consideration of dropping the requirement that the telephone companies be required to provide ISPs access to their telephone networks. Removal of this requirement would be a grave mistake.

I and millions of others like me depend on my local Internet Service Provider to give me access to internet services and options not available from the large telephone carriers. If you choose to remove my ISPs access to the local telephone network, they will no longer be able to provide me and others the level of service we have come to enjoy and expect for Internet access. Such action will simply force the independent ISPs out of business and will do nothing but LIMIT consumer choice, not expand it.

Furthermore, by removing the requirement and reducing our choices, you will most probably also allow consumer rates to rise. By having a current choice among several providers from which I can choose, I am not only allowed to find the best services to suit my needs, but also for the best price available. Reducing the number of ISPs in the marketplace will certainly have the obvious result of reduced competition and increased prices for consumers in the long run. Persons who are retired and on a fixed income will be especially hard hit by your proposed decision.

I sincerely hope that you consider very carefully what you are considering. Consumers all across the United States are depending on you to make the right decision. The right decision is to maintain and grow the level of competition in the internet marketplace. That goal is best met by protecting and nurturing competitive market conditions for the thousands of independent ISPs and not through their destruction.

Commissioners, I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs access to the public telephone networks and thereby protecting the rights of millions of consumers like me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Koch Trusner
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